

Amendments to the Specification:

Amend page 2, line 36 to page 3, line 4 as follows.

In this context, ~~propagation extent~~ is to be understood as the length of a window projected onto a straight line, the straight line running in a principal extending plane of the mask material layer. The average ~~propagation extent~~ is accordingly the ~~propagation extent~~ of a window averaged over all directions.